

Message Text

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME, FAS

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SUBJECT: CITRUS FUNGICIDES

REF: TOKYO 1971

FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF FRONT PAGE REPORT RE CITRUS FUNGICIDE ISSUE THAT APPEARED TODAY IN NIHON KEIZAI. UNABLE TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OR ELABORATION OF REPORT FROM GOJ BUT STORY APPEARS TO BE BASED ON RECENT PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN BY FONOFF OFFICIAL. TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

"HEADING TOWARD SETTLING 'JAPAN-US LEMON WAR';
GOVERNMENT APPROVES USE OF ANTISEPTIC SUBSTANCE":

"THE GOVERNMENT ON THE 15TH FIRMED UP AN INTENTION OF APPROVING IMPORTS OF CITRUS FRUIT (LEMONS, GRAPEFRUIT, ORANGES, ETC.) USING AN ANTISPETIC SUBSTANCE (OPP - ORTHO-PHENYL PHENOL, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE IMPORTS OF AMERICAN FRUIT. THE GOV WILL SEEK APPROVAL OF THE FOOD SANITATION RESEARCH COUNCIL. WHICH IS AN ADVISORY ORGAN TO THE WELFARE MINISTER, BY THE TIME THE JAPAN-US SUMMIT TALKS ARE HELD ON MARCH 21 AND 22, AND WILL CONVEY THIS POLICY TO THE US SIDE AT THE SUMMIT TALKS. THIS IS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FIRST OF THE CONCRETE MEASURES FOR AVOIDING FRICTION IN JAPAN-US TRADE.

"FROM APRIL THE YEAR BEFORE LAST, OUR COUNTRY PROHIBITED IMPORTS OF CITRUS FRUIT USING ANTISEPTIC SUBSTANCE, SAYING THAT SUCH SUBSTANCE AS OPP, WHICH IS USED FOR AMERICAN CITRUS FRUIT, IS HARMFUL TO THE HUMAN BODY. AGAINST THIS, THE US GOV IS

STRONGLY REQUESTING LIFTING OF THE BAN ON IMPORTS, STRESSING THAT USE OF OPP HAS BEEN APPROVED IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD AND THAT NON-APPROVAL BY JAPAN ALONE SHOWS A KIND OF NON-TARIFF BARRIER.

"THE GOV HAS DECIDED TO TAKE A RESOLUTE STEP TO LIFT THE BAN ON IMPORTS OF CITRUS FRUIT USING ANTISEPTIC SUBSTANCE, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: (1) IT IS NECESSARY TO PUT AN END TO THE TRADE PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS, AT THE JAPAN-US SUMMIT TALKS; (2) ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE TESTS CONDUCTED TOWARD THE END OF LAST YEAR BY THE RESIDUE AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

RESEARCH INSTITUTE, AN AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION OF THE AGRICULTURE-FORESTRY MINISTRY, THERE WAS NOT CLARIFIED ANY FACT THAT FRUIT USING OPP IS ESPECIALLY HARMFUL TO THE HUMAN BODY."
SHOESMITH

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